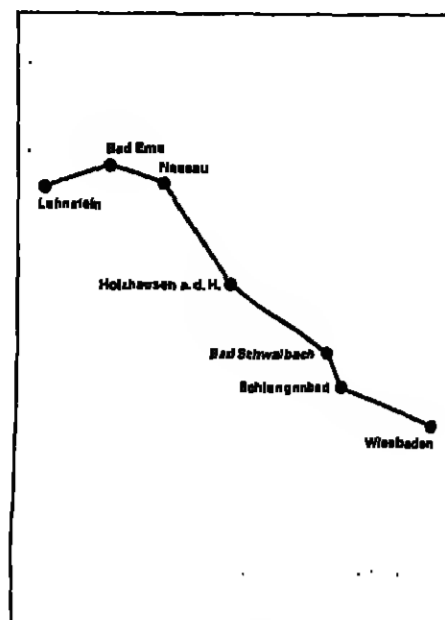


Routes to tour in Germany



The Spa Route



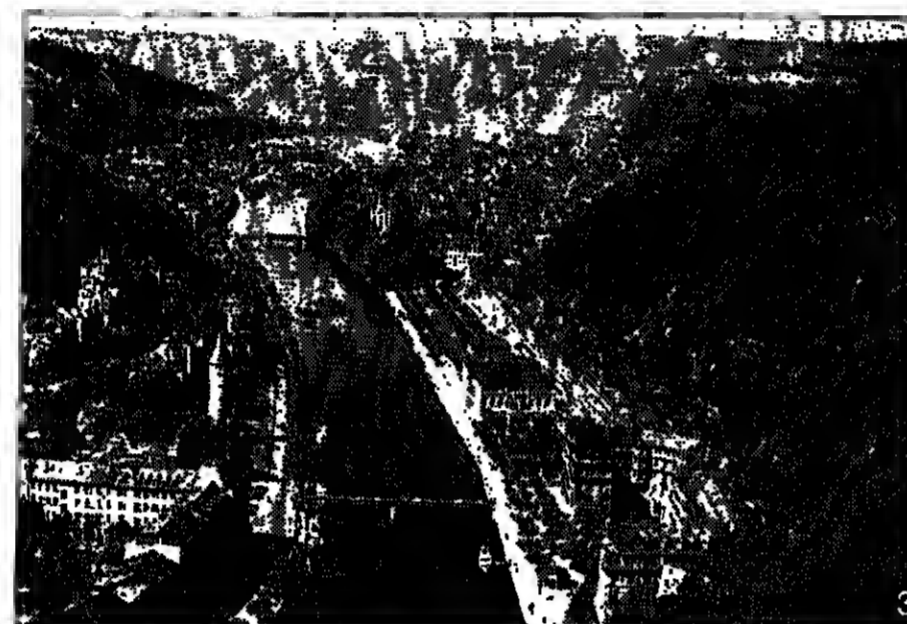
German roads will get you there, say to spas and health resorts spread not all over the country but along a route easily travelled and scenically attractive. From Lahnstein, opposite Koblenz, the Spa Route runs along the wooded chain of hills that border the Rhine valley. Health cures in these resorts are particularly successful in dealing with rheumatism and gynaecological disorders and cardiac and circulatory complaints. Even if you haven't enough time to take a full course of treatment, you ought to take a look at a few pump rooms and sanatoriums. In Bad Ems you must not miss the historic inn known as the *Wirtshaus an der Lahn*. In Bad Schwalbach see for yourself the magnificent *Kursaal*. Take a walk round the Kurpark in Wiesbaden and see the city's casino. Elegant Wiesbaden dates back to the late 19th century Wilhelminian era.

Visit Germany and let the Spa Route be your guide.



- 1 Wiesbaden
- 2 Schlungenbad
- 3 Bad Ems
- 4 Bad Schwalbach

DZT DEUTSCHE ZENTRALE FÜR TOURISMUS EV.
Beethovenstrasse 69, D-6000 Frankfurt/M.



The German Tribune

Hamburg, 17 April 1988
Twenty-seventh year - No. 1318 - By air

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Genscher makes a point in Vienna and Brussels



What can have prompted Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher to reiterate, in an interview with the *Frankfurter Rundschau*, the aspects he sees as important in striking a conventional arms balance in Europe?

Shame on anyone who surmises that Bonn's busy Foreign Minister made a point of hitting the headlines in the aftermath of Easter, traditionally a time when there is little news with which to hit the headlines.

High-ranking Foreign Office officials momentarily hint that the Minister's aim, in restating his case, was to make a point in both Vienna and Brussels.

Nato and Warsaw Pact negotiators have reconvened in the Austrian capital for what seems likely to be the last and crucial round of talks in preparation for conventional disarmament negotiations.

In Brussels a Nato working party is busy working on a joint approach to the Vienna MBFR talks. So it could well be that Herr Genscher felt the need to make it clear in both capitals where he and the Bonn government stood.

But that need not be the whole truth. In both Vienna and Brussels Bonn's viewpoint has long been clear.

The Federal government would like to see East-West agreement on equal and low ceilings for non-nuclear weapon systems needed to launch surprise attacks and terrain-gaining offensives, meaning mainly battle tanks and field artillery.

The Federal government is also known to be keen on asymmetrical force reduction, meaning more men being demobilised and more arms and equipment scrapped by the Warsaw Pact, with its numerical superiority, than by the West.

These two cornerstones of the negotiating package as envisaged are, however, little more than truisms. Herr Genscher may be able to claim to have endorsed them early and energetically, but they are now political commonplaces.

He clearly has something different in mind. He seems to fear that either he or the Federal government might be entangled in a rerun of the missile modernisation debate in the course of which disarmament moves could grow less important in the domestic context.

With memories of the last days of the Bonn SPD-FDP coalition in mind, he fears that a debate of this kind could only weigh heavily on his pact with the CDU/CSU, proving particularly burdensome for him and his party, the Free Democrats.

Besides, his personal conviction is that what disarmament counts for more than arms modernisation.

Modernisation has been a concept with

unfortunate connotations since the early 1980s, so it would be somewhat inappropriate to use it in connection with the present arms imbroglio.

Arms modernisation has, oddly enough, come to be associated almost entirely with nuclear rather than conventional weapons.

In both cases fine tuning is needed as long as the potential adversary is either superior in manpower or firepower or in the process of making his weapons more effective.

Both sides must seek to outdo each other until such time as agreed and verifiable arms limitation has been negotiated.

A negotiating target must not be raised fairly easy to achieve over a limited period, with the inference that modernisation can thus be dispensed with then being drawn.

Strategically and in terms of negotiating tactics the right approach is to proclaim one's readiness in principle to go ahead and modernise and to embark on preparations by, say, placing development contracts.

It must, however, be clear that negotiations, always assuming they achieve results, could lead to modernisation programmes being abandoned.

Chancellor Kohl and Foreign Minister Genscher have dragged their feet on the weapon systems modernisation debate begun at the Brussels Nato conference.

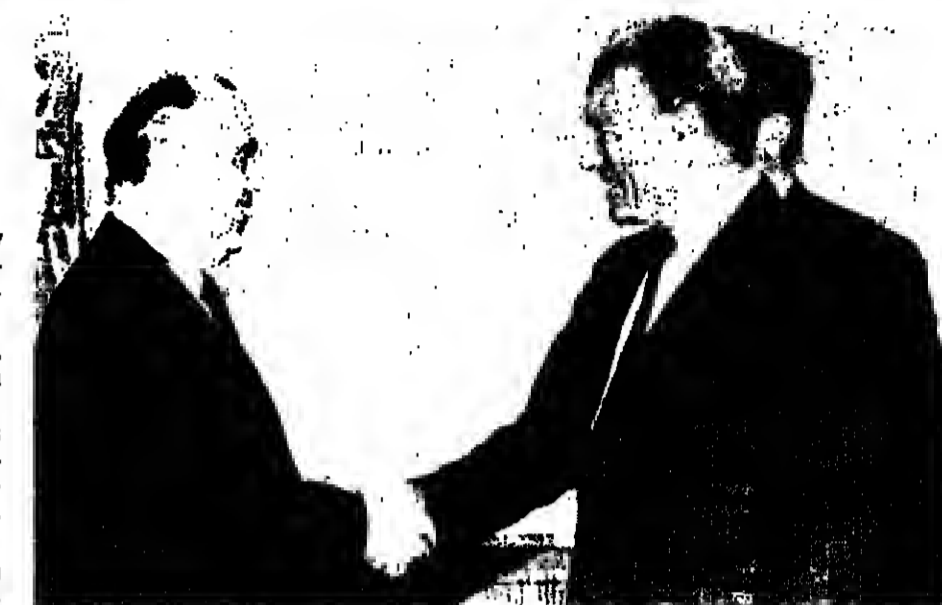
It dealt mainly with missiles in the 110 to about 400km (70-250 mile) range capable of being fitted out with both nuclear and conventional warheads.

Whether they were wise to stall on this issue is another matter. The development and construction of new short-range missiles have been virtually approved.

American diplomats in Brussels and politicians in Washington may say they are prepared to bear in mind the domestic situation faced by Herr Kohl and Herr Genscher and to give them both a little time, but it is clear what is expected of them in the final analysis.

The next missile modernisation debate is inevitable, and Herr Genscher will have no choice but to take up his cudgels — even though he may first try to divert attention from the prospect.

Dierich Möller
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 8 April 1988)



Willy Brandt (right), SPD hon. chairman and chairman of the Socialist International, being welcomed to Moscow by CPSU general secretary Mikhail Gorbachev (see article on page 3)

Internal market Euro-miracle deadline is set for 1992

Wonders seldom happen, especially in politics. But one is shortly to happen in the European Community, where the 12 national markets are to be transformed by the end of 1992 into a single internal market.

It will be a common market with no tariff or other, red tape barriers, a market of 320 million consumers comparable only with the gigantic US domestic economy.

That, at least, is what European Community heads of state and government have promised, and the European Commission in Brussels has energetically set about drafting finished proposals on the basis of which the single internal market could be put into practice.

Once the nearly 300 proposals submitted by the Brussels Eurocrats are transformed into regulations, guidelines and legislation the European Community will have ended particularism, at least in economic affairs, and at last flexed its muscle.

Customs have not been levied since the early 1970s within the European Community, and trade in goods between member-countries is in principle free — but only in principle.

Travellers are still checked at frontiers between one European Community country and the next to see, for instance, whether they are importing

more than the permitted number of cigarettes, wine or spirits.

Lorries still spend hours waiting for clearance, and anyone who wants to supply a nut or bolt from one European Community country to another must comply with an abundance of standards and requirements so varied as virtually to defy efforts to be acquainted with them all.

It costs both time and money and is a source of constant trouble and annoyance.

This is all to change, and to change fast. Having said that, 1992 would be the first major deadline in the history of the European Community that was met on time — always presupposing it is.

In the past, Ministers and heads of government have invariably discovered that there is a difference between heralding and implementing grand designs.

Yet in the final analysis it hardly matters whether the single internal market is set up on 31 December 1992 or a few months later. What matters is that it is set up at all, and even that cannot be guaranteed.

Once the Council of Ministers sets about examining the proposals in detail, all the national interests, peculiarities and vanities that have stymied the common internal market for 30 years will return to the fray.

Once negotiations get down to such engrossing topics as harmonisation of tobacco duties, joint action to combat swine fever and agreement on axle payloads for heavy goods vehicles, the spirit of European activity triggered by the 1992 deadline will soon grind to a halt.

That will certainly apply to the Federal Republic of Germany and, arguably, to it in particular. The Germans will have to make concessions of the European Community negotiating table on issues that could elicit election results in the Federal Republic. They include, for instance, environmental and consumer protection. A

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■ WORK

Munich experts say computers program their operators

Städteutsche Zeitung

More and more people daily face new information and communication techniques that have grown indispensable on the shopfloor, in the office and in the medical profession.

Microchips control central heating systems and washing machines. Computers forecast the weather and match dating partners. New technologies are limited as labour- and time-saving.

"How do the new technologies influence our thinking, our sensual experience and our behaviour?" a number of specialists were asked in a series of interdisciplinary lectures at Munich University.

Fritz Böhle and Brigitte Milkau of the Munich Social Science Research Institute felt the new technology tended to supplant all human skills that could not immediately be pigeonholed in categories of rational activity.

They based their viewpoint on a survey of work in computerised CNC machine tools, arguing that these machines were supplanting sensual perception, or the previous use of eyes, ears, hands and body movements at the same time.

That was why developing a "feeling" for the machine was growing more difficult, the feeling defined by a skilled worker as:

"You start working at the machine and feel a sense of pain when something goes wrong."

This sensual and emotional relationship is seemingly rendered superfluous by computer controls. Measuring equipment, data and monitors take its place.

The man at the machine no longer plays an active part in handling it. Yet when an upset occurs and something unforeseen happens he is still expected to sense where the trouble lies.

It is a schizophrenic situation in which he is suddenly expected to be able to do things he has either forgotten or never learnt in the first place.

The two Munich sociologists feel this contradiction has already sown fresh seeds of staff strain and stress in manufacturing industry.

Darmstadt philosopher Robert Schurz set against this imminent loss of sensual and emotional experience the orientation and modes of thought and behaviour that are encouraged by the new technologies.

He and mathematician Jörg Pfleger, both of Darmstadt University of Technology, have come across the mental outlook they feel is thus encouraged among people associated with computers at school, at work or in their studies.

They summarised their findings by



Jumbo screen

This DM80,000 personal computer was specially designed for partially sighted students at Kassel University. It has a Braille printout and speech facility too.

(Photo: dpa)

describing a "machine-orientated type of character" with a mental approach tending toward formalism and algorithm.

For this approach to work the type of character they describe is said to need a disturbance-free environment of its own, which accounts for the striving to keep contradictions, emotions, ambivalence and uncertainty at bay.

The machine-orientated character has a powerful desire to keep everything under control.

Contacts with other people tend to be avoided because they might lead to unforeseen developments. Handling a computer is seen as ensuring greater security.

The daily lives of people Schurz and Pfleger classify as machine-orientated characters run as planned; they are systematic and arranged in a straitjacket of inflexible routines.

Munich medic Johannes Wiedemann noted that the new technologies promoted a non-historical perception of reality.

In a medical context this meant that a patient's complaints were viewed in isolation from their connection with the patient's life as soon as expert systems were used in diagnosis and treatment.

The dimension of growth and development is alien to these systems.

Expert systems were likelier than other aids to set aside and nudge into oblivion medical viewpoints geared to a concept of the individual in his entirety.

Munich University information scientist Kerstin Schill said expert sys-

tems worked with realities that were either unambiguous and quantifiable or, failing that, had to be rendered so.

Ambivalent, contradictory and incomplete aspects of a complaint were disregarded. Expert systems also disregarded different weighing of symptoms.

That, she felt, was why they were not a reliable means of helping to identify complaints and to cure them.

The various lectures made it clear that the new technologies require and promote a controlled, custom-built, formal, detached and planned mode of thought and activity.

Relationships with reality that are based on empathy and thus unpredictable are dismissed as undesirable.

This division of human options into valuable and less valuable categories was not just due to the computer, said Viennese political scientist Michael Wimmer.

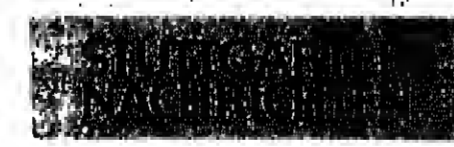
It must be seen in the context of Western civilisation, in the course of which abstract thought has come to be regarded as the apex of mental activity.

This trend has been accompanied by a correspondingly low level of awareness of the opportunities of perception afforded by the sensual and emotional view of the world.

Yet these opportunities are at times indispensable in that, to quote Ingeborg Bachmann, "the facts that make up the world need the non-factual from which to be recognised for what they are."

Christel Schachner (Städteutsche Zeitung, Munich, 17 March 1988)

One VDU workstation in four is found to be faulty



Factory inspectors in Baden-Württemberg have found one computer workstation (VDU) in four to be seriously defective — at least where user-friendly arrangement and statutory radiological markings are concerned.

The factory inspectorates checked 5,628 workstations at 785 firms on behalf of the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare.

The main shortcomings were in re-

spect of ergonomic considerations and user-friendliness. In other words, screens, keyboards, chairs, desks and lighting were not satisfactorily arranged in relation to each other.

Herrmann Mühlbeyer, state secretary at the Ministry in Stuttgart, says this is mainly due to lack of information within companies.

Ergonomic shortcomings were found to some extent to be the result of parts not matching.

Nearly one VDU in five (18.5 per cent) lacked a suitable footrest. Eight per cent lacked the handrests they needed because their keyboards were at

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■ RESEARCH

German survey bears out link between leukaemia and nuclear reactors

British research has for some time indicated the existence of a link between nuclear reactors and leukaemia. A new German study also points to the same connection.

Paediatrician Matthias Demuth from Kassel undertook the study at the request of concerned citizens in Höxter, Westphalia. They wanted him to check rumours that more children than before were suffering from leukaemia.

He was sceptical and demanded more precise details. He received a list which indeed showed that leukaemia among children had increased in the vicinity of the nuclear reactor at Würgassen.

Würgassen is the second-oldest reactor in West Germany. It is only 15 km south of Höxter in Beverungen, between the Länder of North-Rhine Westphalia, Lower Saxony and Hesse.

When the reactor went into service in 1972, it was the largest in Europe, feeding 670 megawatts into the national grid.

Würgassen's boiling water reactor since again holds a record. Official statistics say the reactor is the nation's leading radioactive culprit. Hardly any other reactor releases so much radioactivity into the atmosphere.

Dr Demuth made an epidemiological investigation to get to the bottom of the increase. The preconditions were good.

Since 1980 the Institute of Medical Statistics and Documentation in Mainz has been collecting and evaluating data on cases of child cancer.

He studied the leukaemia figures for areas within a 25-kilometre radius of the reactor. At the same time he used figures from the residents' registration office to calculate how many children and adolescents the area has.

Continued from page 12

too high a level. Inadequate awareness of ergonomic requirements was indicated by the fact that 15 per cent of operators questioned said they had been given no instruction in arranging their workstation ergonomically.

Screens and desks were wrongly arranged as a result.

The inspectors found management and staff to be poorly informed on health aspects of VDU work too. Many firms had no idea that sight tests were recommended for staff who worked at computer screens, and nearly one in four went untested.

Yet sight tests are particularly important for older workers. VDU work does not in itself overstrain the eye, but poor eyesight, if uncorrected, can lead in the long term to headaches and other complaints.

The most frequent defect (nearly one monitor in three was at fault in this respect) was the lack of statutory radiological markings.

Monitors must have a little aluminium plate certifying that they comply with radiological requirements.

Herr Mühlbeyer stressed that none of the VDU screens tested were a radiation risk. Most emitted radiation at levels well below the statutory maximum.

Yet the "seal of approval" was a statutory requirement too many manufacturers evidently tended to disregard.

Hansjörg Jung (Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 24 March 1988)



He arranged them according to ranges of 15, 20 and 25 kilometres from the reactor.

He then compared the number of child leukaemia cases in the respective zones. The results of his research confirmed public suspicions.

In the last seven years, the number of child leukaemia cases within a radius of 20 kilometres was double the average.

Demuth found 15 cases instead of seven or eight — a significant deviation when one has applied the strictest statistical standards. Admittedly it's still a low figure. But leukaemia is a rare disease among children. West Germany's average is only four in 100,000.

By German standards Dr Demuth's study is practically a pioneer effort. Very few German epidemiological studies deal at all with the occurrence of leukaemia near nuclear reactors. And most of those that do so have shortcomings.

They probed the occurrence of the disease in rural districts. They did not treat areas close to reactors separately. Above all else, they only looked at figures for children and adolescents who died of leukaemia.

Scientists have found a chemical in plastic PVC foil which kills plants and fish. But the public has not shown much interest in the findings.

Scientist Rosemary Cole is disappointed at the unspectacular ending to an exciting scientific search for the chemical. "I can't understand why our findings have been ignored by the public," she said.

The mystery began at the National Institute for Vegetable Research in Warwick, England. Outdoor plants covered with PVC foil for protection against bad weather shrivelled up and died. Greenhouse plants wrapped up in the same foil also died.

PVC is polyvinyl chloride. But the foil is even more of a cocktail than its name suggests. It has heavy metals to protect it from light and heat and chemicals to reduce flammability.

About a third of PVC foil consists of plasticisers. They make PVC, which is hard and brittle, into a pliable and malleable finished product.

But which of the many chemicals is the culprit? After much spade work, Cole and her colleagues came up with DBP (Di-Butyl-Phthalate).

Strictly speaking, the deadly chemical had been on the wanted list since the late 1950s. Back then, American scientists discovered that a minute sample of DBP foil in an aquarium kills a goldfish within an hour. But the findings ended up, like the recent English ones, collecting dust on library shelves.

Experts at the Environmental Protection Agency in Berlin knew nothing about the British findings even though DBP is one of the most regularly used plasticisers in the processing of PVC.

The most widely-used plasticiser is DEHP (Di-Ethyl-Hexyl-Phthalate). DEHP is similar to DBP. For comparison with DBP, scientists have measured

Since the 1970s doctors have been most successful in curing the disease. Thus surveys failed to take into account people who had been cured of leukaemia.

The only study which compares with Demuth's is that of the Society for Radiation and Environmental Research (GSF) in Neuherberg, near Munich. However the GSF found no increase in child leukaemia near ordinary Bavarian atomic reactors.

But the picture looks different for scientific research reactors. There were more young people with the disease near the Garching and Neuherberg reactors than predicted by official statistics.

British studies confirm Demuth's findings. The leukaemia rate near Britain's old research reactors is clearly above the national average.

The notorious Sellafeld reactor, formerly Windscale, holds the national record for leukaemias. In neighbouring Seascale, epidemiologists have found a rate of child leukaemia ten times higher than normal.

They also found significant increases at the Scottish reactors in Dounreay and Hunterston and at Aldermaston, between London and Bristol.

Admittedly all these findings cannot be explained scientifically. Leukaemia

is indeed the most important radiation-induced cancer.

Doctors know that the unborn child is particularly at risk.

However they learnt this from tests on the overexposed populations of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

They know little about the effects of low exposure.

Marlin Gardner, medical statistician at the University of Southampton, came up with a vital clue. His study of Seascale/Sellafeld shows that leukaemia has increased only among children born near reactors.

Birth places more than 25 kilometres away have the national average rate of leukaemia.

"This suggests that something causes the disease during pregnancy or infancy," Gardner says.

Do low levels of radiation from reactors increase the incidence of leukaemia among children or not? Matthias Demuth is cautious about interpreting his findings.

"One should not say, on the basis of this one study, that properly functioning atomic reactors, in general, cause more leukaemia among children and adolescents," he said.

He said there should be studies of all areas near German atomic reactors. Only broadly-based studies can lend experts to a reasonable conclusion.

Since data is available and accessible, the question is why authorities have not carried out such studies. Is it a dislike of epidemiology or are they afraid of the results?

Jürgen Kundke

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, Hamburg, 28 March 1988)

PVC component is pinpointed as cancer risk

its toxicity by means of thorough tests on laboratory animals.

Scientists discovered that DEHP, at least in large doses, can cause deformities as well as cancer of the gonads.

American toxicologists concluded three years ago that the results of experiments on mice and rats were enough to classify DEHP as a cancer threat to humans.

However German authorities refuse to ban the foil. They base their decision on new evidence from the Heidelberg Cancer Research Centre.

The Heidelberg researchers made Syrian golden hamsters inhale and take injections of quantities of DEHP in "environmentally relevant" doses. The results were negative.

Carcinogenesis, the specialist cancer magazine, recently published the results. But critics of the tests say the doses of DEHP were too low, the golden hamsters too resistant and the number of animals exposed too small to draw any definite conclusions.

When experts disagree like this, it's difficult for the layman to know what to do. But many critics are right in saying that if there are reasonable doubts, the authorities should introduce appropriate legislation. There is indeed enough cause for concern. And not just because of the results of experiments on animals.

Last year there were incidents caused by DEHP at the Cologne Paediatric Clinic. Premature babies breathing through tubes containing DEHP devel-

oped complications. Their lungs showed changes which doctors could not explain.

Erich Gladtko, Head of the Cologne clinic, said condensed water in the tubes had abnormal discoloration. Doctors changed the tubes and the problems disappeared.

Gladtko said: "Medical tubes with DEHP in them do not belong in clinical medicine." Luckily there are alternative, more expensive medical tubes on the market.

Dialysis patients could also benefit from the new tubes. They take in significant amounts of plasticisers from tubes during their weekly blood filtering sessions. The same goes for accident victims. Hospitals store blood in PVC bags and use infusion devices made up of up to 33 per cent of DEHP.

Admittedly the Federal Health Minister did not know of a less dangerous replacement. During parliamentary question time, her secretary of state said he would be grateful for any information on the subject.

The Düsseldorf Chemical Institute and the Hamburg Seminar for the Promotion of Applied Biological Research have learnt much about the dangers of plasticisers in the home.

Their tests of South-East Asian toys for DBP and DEHP often show them to contain as much as 30 per cent of DEHP.

Children like to chew and lick such toys. They can easily swallow parts of them. This can be dangerous, regardless of which plasticiser the toy contains.

Stomach acids dissolve the plasticiser. The hard and sharp-edged plastic part is left over to cause internal injury.

Robert Müller/Bernd Schuh (Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, Cologne, 25 March 1988)

Meteorological stations all over the world



supplied the data arranged in see-at-a-glance tables in these new reference works. They include details of air and water temperature, precipitation, humidity, sunshine, physical stress of climate, wind conditions and frequency of thunderstorms.

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